Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:GGGRIFFITHS:GG APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE CAB:JDEEGAN EUR/RPE:PLAASE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR FARES

REF: (A) ROME 19822; (B) ROME 18795

1. EMBASSY HAS CORRECTLY POINTED OUT TO DI MUCCIO FACT THAT ITALIANS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO EMBASSY NOTE NO. 697. CAB HAS APPROVED ALITALIA FARES, AND DEPARTMENT HAS INVITED GOI TO APPROVE ALL US AIRLINES FILINGS IN SAME SPIRIT THAT CAB APPROVED THE ALITALIA FILINGS. IN THIS CONTEXT, DEPARTMENT FAILS TO UNDERSTAND WHY DI MUCCIO KEEPS REFERRING TO WHAT THE NEXT U.S. MOVE MIGHT BE IN THE AIR FARE QUESTION. CAB HAS ACTED, AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS SPOKEN. IT IS UP TO GOI NOW TO MAKE ITS MOVE.

OTHERWISE, AS EMBASSY HAS PERCEPTIVELY NOTED, CONDITIONS EXIST NOW FOR IMPASSE WHICH COULD LAST INTO JANUARY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. FYI. PAN AM AND TWA HAVE INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT THEIR RESPECTIVE ROME OFFICES HAVE EACH RECEIVED IDENTICAL LETTERS FROM GOI STATING THAT GOI APPROVES THE FARES WHICH MATCH THE ALITALIA FARES. THE LETTERS STATE NOTHING EXPLICITLY ABOUT THE OTHER FARES, BUT THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THE GOI DISAPPROVES THEM. PAN AM AND TWA INFORM US

THAT CURRENTLY THEY ARE SELLING THESE OTHER FARES AND ARE FLYING PASSENGERS TO AND FROM ITALY ON THESE FARES. THE FARES ARE BEING SOLD QUOTE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL UNQUOTE. PAN AM AND TWA INDICATE THAT THEY INTEND TO CONTINUE SELLING THESE FARES UNTIL FORMALLY NOTIFIED BY GOI THAT THE FARES ARE DISAPPROVED.

IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT SEES NO REASON TO CONSIDER THESE FARES SUSPENDED UNTIL GOI FORMALLY NOTIFIES USG THAT IT IS SUSPENDING THEM. TO DATE, GOI HAS ONLY SENT NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION (SEE REF B).

3. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT HAS IMPRESSION THAT ITALIANS DO NOT LIKE THE PAN AM AND TWA FARES IN QUESTION, BUT ARE UNWILLING FORMALLY TO SUSPEND THEM, AT LEAST UNTIL THE JANUARY 23 DISCUSSIONS. INSTEAD, ITALIANS ATTEMPTING TO BULLDOZE PAN AM AND TWA INTO DOING WHAT THE ITALIANS WANT BUT ARE UNWILLINGTO DO THEMSELVES. AT PRESENT TIME, PAN AM AND TWA GIVE NO INDICATION OF ANY INTENTION NOT TO SELL THESE FARES UNLESS THEY ARE EXPLICITLY DISAPPROVED BY GOI. CHRISTOPHER

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